

REMARKS

The Examiner, in paragraph 1 of Office Action of April 19 2005, indicates as follows:

1. Claims 1-8 are rejected under the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ratz (US 5,982,420). Ratz teaches of a surveillance system comprising a camera unit for transforming an image into an image signal and outputting said image signal and a display unit having a screen and operative to transform into an image said image signal outputted by said camera unit to display said image on said screen (Note: camera system generates a composite video signal containing image signals and has a display device, Column 1, Lines 66-67, Column 2, Lines 1-3); camera unit being operative to automatically chase an object as a chasing target to have said display unit display said object as said chasing target and a display unit including marker displaying means for displaying a marker on said screen and chasing target determining means for determining said object spaced apart from said marker at a predetermined distance as said chasing target among said images displayed on said screen (Note: camera system including as automatic tracking device; a reference box for confining and locating the information defining the reselected portion as it is being viewed on the display, Column 2, Lines 4-14); marker is constituted by a pointer and said chasing target determining means is operative to determine said object superimposed by pointer (Column 2, Lines 15-18); a joystick operative to output position signals and signal controlling means for receiving signals outputted by joystick to control camera and joystick having ability to control two states and setting means for setting states (Column 12, Lines 32-43); marker forms a plurality of screen areas on said screen and chasing target determining means is operative to determine said object positioned within

one predetermined screen area on said screen (Column 13, Lines 28-35); marker displaying means is superimposed with object (Note: white lines on display screen along with rectangular box(i.e. marker), Column 12, Lines 4-17) chasing target determining means is operative to determine only one object as said chasing target to automatically be chased when said object is displayed on said screen (Column 12, Line 15-18), marker is made up of vertical and horizontal lines to form a plurality of areas (Note: crosshair defined by vertical and horizontal lines, running the length of the screen, Column 11, Line 58-63, Column 12, Lines 4-14).

The present invention defined in currently amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited document D1 (US 5,982,420A) by the following reasons.

The surveillance system according to the present invention defined in currently amended claim 1 comprises:

- (a) a camera unit for transforming an image indicative of the objects into an image signal and outputting the image signal;
- (b) a display unit having a screen and operative to transform the image signal outputted by the camera unit into an image to be displayed on the screen, the display unit including
 - (b1) marker displaying means for displaying a marker on the screen, and
 - (b2) chasing target determining means for selecting as a chasing target one object from among the objects displayed on the screen by determining whether or not the marker is positioned on the screen in predetermined relationship with the object to be selected as the chasing target;
- (c) a joystick operative to be inclined at its desired angular positions to output position signals respectively responsive to the desired angular positions;
- (d) signal controlling means for receiving said position signals outputted by said joystick, said signal controlling means being operative to assume two controlling states consisting of a first controlling state to control a driving operation of said camera unit, and a second controlling state to control said movement of said marker on said screen in response

to said position signals to ensure that said marker is positioned on said screen in predetermined relationship with said object to be selected as said chasing target, the photographing direction of said camera unit not being changed; and

(e) setting means for having the signal controlling means selectively assume the first and second controlling states, wherein

the camera unit is operative to automatically chase the object selected as the chasing target to ensure that the object selected as the chasing target is displayed on the screen.

From the elements (c) and (d) each forming part of foregoing amended claim 1, it will be understood that the surveillance system according to the present invention defined in foregoing amended claim 1 can allow the marker to be positioned on the screen in predetermined relationship with the object selected as the chasing target by reason that that the surveillance system defined in foregoing amended claim 1 comprises: a joystick operative to be inclined at its desired angular positions to output position signals respectively responsive to the desired angular positions; and signal controlling means for receiving said position signals outputted by said joystick, said signal controlling means being operative to assume two controlling states consisting of a first controlling state to control a driving operation of said camera unit, and a second controlling state to control said movement of said marker on said screen in response to said position signals to ensure that said marker is positioned on said screen in predetermined relationship with said object to be selected as said chasing target, the photographing direction of said camera unit not being changed.

In other words, the surveillance system defined in foregoing amended claim 1 can allow the marker to be moved on the screen in response to the position signals outputted by the joystick in the second controlling state.

More specifically, the surveillance system defined in foregoing amended claim 1 can allow the marker to be moved on the screen in response to the position signals outputted by the joystick, without allowing the photographing direction of the camera unit to be changed, in the second controlling state. This means that the surveillance system defined in foregoing amended claim 1 can maintain the current photographing direction of the camera unit when

the marker is moved on the screen in response to the position signals outputted by the joystick in the second controlling state.

The cited document D1, on the other hand, discloses an autotracking device in which comprises: means for receiving and normalizing the composite video signals to a predetermined level; means for extracting a preselected portion of the composite video signals so as to isolate object information thereof, the information of the preselected portion having a transition rate that exceeds a predetermined value; means for detecting the transitions of the preselected portion and separating one transition from another; means for comparing the separated transitions against a reference and generating a corresponding output signal when each of the transitions exceeds the reference; means for comparing the corresponding output signals against each other to determine the dominant transition therebetween; means for digitizing the dominant transition value into digital data serving as target data; means for extracting horizontal and vertical synchronizing signals from the normalized composite video signals; means for digitizing the extracted horizontal and vertical synchronizing signals; counter means having a preloaded quantity and responsive to the digitized horizontal and vertical synchronizing signals, the counter means being synchronized to the display device, the counter means providing a fixed pattern corresponding to the preloaded quantity, the fixed pattern being displayed in the central region of the display device; and processor means for receiving the target data and providing first and second sets of signals with the first set of signals being applied to the counter means to cause the target data to be displayed in correspondence with the fixed pattern and the second set of signals serving as the steering signals to cause the camera to track the object.

In the autotracking device disclosed in the cited document D1, the fixed pattern is displayed in the central region of the display device. In other words, the autotracking device can allow the fixed pattern displayed in the central region of the display device to be in a predetermined relationship with the object to be selected as the chasing target by changing the current direction of the camera. This leads to the fact that the autotracking device disclosed in the cited document D1 imposes a task of operating the direction of the camera

on the operator when the object is designated as the chasing target by an operator.

On the other hand, the surveillance system defined in foregoing amended claim 1 can maintain the current direction of the camera unit when the marker is moved on the screen in response to the position signals outputted by the joystick in the second controlling state. Additionally, the surveillance system according to the present invention defined in foregoing amended claim 1 can allow one of the objects displayed on the screen to be designated as the chasing target by an operator without imposing a task of operating the direction of the camera unit on the operator.

The cited document D1, therefore, fails to disclose a surveillance system which comprises: a joystick operative to be inclined at its desired angular positions to output position signals respectively responsive to the desired angular positions; and signal controlling means for receiving the position signals outputted by the joystick, said signal controlling means being operative to assume two controlling states consisting of a first controlling state to control a driving operation of said camera unit, and a second controlling state to control said movement of said marker on said screen in response to said position signals to ensure that said marker is positioned on said screen in predetermined relationship with said object to be selected as said chasing target, the photographing direction of said camera unit not being changed.

The surveillance system defined in amended claim 1 is completely different in construction from the disclosure of the cited document D1.

It will, therefore, be appreciated from the foregoing description that the surveillance system defined in amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited document D1.

Claims 2 and 5 to 7 are dependent on the amended claim 1 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of each of the cited documents as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. Claim 4 is dependent on the amended claim 2 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of each of the cited documents as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. Claim 8 is dependent on the claim 5 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the

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disclosure of each of the cited documents as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. It is, therefore, believed that claims 2 and 4 to 8 are patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited document based on the same reasons as above.

In view of the foregoing description, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is thus in condition for allowance.

If any fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 33718.

Respectfully submitted,

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